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Practitioner's Docket No.: 939\_023

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Akira MATSUMOTO and Masashi FUKUYAMA

Ser. No.: 09/819,330

Group Art Unit: 2839

Filed: March 28, 2001

Examiner: Patel, T.

Confirmation No.: 4237

For: OPTICAL FIBER ARRAY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE  
TRANSMISSIONI hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile  
transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office  
on January 6, 2003 at (703) 872-9318.*Tara L. Preston*  
Tara L. Preston

## AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 6, 2002, please amend the above-  
identified application as follows:

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In the Claims:

JAN 06 2003

Please rewrite claim 1 as follows:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

1. (Twice Amended) An optical fiber array, comprising: a holding member including a substrate having flat surfaces arranged on opposite sides of a group of sectional V-shaped housing grooves formed in said substrate for housing optical fibers on a top face, said optical fibers each having an optical fiber tip end bare portion housed in said holding member; a cover plate positioned on the substrate; and an adhesive provided directly between the substrate and the cover plate to fix the optical fibers in the housing grooves, wherein a distance between a center axis of the outermost housing groove and an end portion of the substrate is at least five times larger than the radius of the optical fibers, and a distance Y between the flat surfaces of the substrate and the cover plate is  $L/6 \leq Y \leq L$ , wherein Y is a